

Present: President George; President Pro-Tem Hrydziuszko; Members: Abboud, Kecskemeti, Mooney, O’Gorman, and White

Absent: None.

Also Present: Village Manager, Campbell
Village Clerk/Assistant Manager, Rutkowski
Village Attorney, Ryan
Public Safety Director, Torongeau
Public Services Director, Johnston

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President George called the regular Village Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers located at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, second by Hrydziuszko, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tim Luke, Nixon, thanked Public Safety Director and his team for the efforts they made during the winter storms. He commented on the potential Wendbrook acquisition and asked where the money would come from for the acquisition and future development. He said the focus should be on maintaining the existing parks and nature preserves. He stated that the Council should act as custodians on the residents’ behalf and ask for more feedback from residents in the next 30 days.

Nancy Beal, Sheridan, said that she does not think the Council is being transparent enough. She would like to see more information about the potential Wendbrook acquisition published in the Eagle newspaper. She would also like to see more information about the upkeep costs of the property. She thinks the money should go toward fixing roads or toward the Public Safety Department instead. She said residents need more information about the plan for Wendbrook.

O’Gorman noted that he plans to host a public forum regarding Wendbrook at Beverly Park in May or June.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, be it resolved, the consent agenda is approved.

1. Review and consider approval of minutes of a regular Council meeting held February 21, 2023.
2. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, February 27, 2023.
3. Set public hearing date for April 4, 2023 to receive comments on Special Assessments to be added to the 2023 tax roll.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

REVIEW AND CONSIDER OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS' REQUEST TO HOLD ANNUAL 5K ON VILLAGE STREETS ON SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

Campbell provided an overview. Administration received a request from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs (OLQM) to use Village streets for their annual 5K event on Saturday, May 6, 2023 between the hours of 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

This run/walk is in lieu of OLQM's annual Oktoberfest 5K, which has been a tradition for several years. The organizers made the decision to move certain fundraisers to the spring and separate them from their big Oktoberfest event. Funds raised from registration will go toward OLQM Church and Parish. A map of the route was provided to Council.

Micheal Hughes was present on behalf of OLQM to ask for permission to use Village streets for the annual run.

White asked if there was any coordination between running groups in the Village. It was determined that there was no overlap between this run and the Groves 5K occurring the following day.

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Mooney, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council hereby authorizes Our Lady Queen of Martyrs to hold their annual 5K run using Village streets and sidewalks on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. as outlined on the attached map provided that they submit a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Village of Beverly Hills as an additional insured to the Clerk's Office for the date of the event.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR THE CLEANING OF THE CATCH BASINS IN THE VILLAGE OF BEVERLY HILLS

Campbell provided an overview of the proposal. The catch basins in the Village of Beverly Hills are in need of routine cleaning and inspection to keep the storm system functioning properly and to stay compliant with our MS4 permit. They are designed to fill with debris which must be removed on a regular basis.

Administration has received three quotes from qualified contractors, Emergency Drain & Plumbing, Metro Environmental, and Pipetek Infrastructure. All have offered similar services to complete the entire village (1158 catch basins) in 4 years by cleaning, inspecting, and hauling away the debris, of 25% of the villages catch basins per year.

Metro Environmental is the lowest bidder at \$83.50 per catch basin. That equates to \$24,173.25 per year, \$96,693 for the four-year period.

It is the Village of Beverly Hills staff's recommendation to approve the Metro Environmental agreement as proposed. Funds are available in accounts 202-463-934.33 and 203-463-934.33.

Abboud asked about liability insurance requirements.

Mooney inquired about the company's references and reputation.

Kecskemeti noted that the company was licensed and insured. She said that little damage could occur during the cleaning but asked that Administration provide oversight. Johnston noted that he has created an inspection form.

White asked if Village-wide catch basin cleaning has been done before. He noted that he liked that there was a routineness proposed. Campbell confirmed that the catch basins have been cleaned out before.

Motion by Kecskemeti, second by Mooney, be it resolved, that the Beverly Hills Village Council approves the proposal from Metro Environmental Services to clean, inspect, and haul debris from the catch basins connected to the villages stormwater system for a four-year period. The annual cost totaling \$24,173.50. Funds are available in 202-463-934.33 and 203-463-934.33.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PURCHASE OF PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING CAMERA REPLACEMENT

Campbell provided an overview. The camera system at the Public Safety Building is in need of replacement. The current system has become obsolete to the point that replacement parts are no longer available, and it cannot take on software updates.

We have received three quotes from reputable contractors, Abel Electronics, Metro Detroit Integrated Systems (MDIS), and Castle Surveillance. All have given us proposals with similar services, products, and warranties.

MDIS has proposed to remove and replace the current camera system with a turn-key surveillance system that is top of the line and user friendly. They are the optimum bid at \$59,954.53. All of the cameras and components provide a 5-year warranty.

It is Administration's recommendation to approve the MDSI agreement as proposed. Funds are available in account 205-900-977.00

Mooney verified that the Village and Township Offices will remain under surveillance with the new camera system.

O'Gorman verified that these cameras would be for both inside and outside of the building.

Motion by O'Gorman, second by Mooney, be it resolved that the Beverly Hills Village Council approves the proposal from Metro Detroit Integrated Systems to remove and

replace the agreed upon camera system at the Village of Beverly Hills Public Safety Building. The cost totaling \$59,954.53. Funds are available in account 205-900-977.00.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Chipping Services - As a result of the ice storms on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 and Monday, February 27, 2023, branches and limbs fell throughout the Village. DPW will continue collecting and chipping branches through the following week. The Administration appreciates your patience as we work to collect the large number of limbs and branches that fell during the storms. Please place any branches or limbs that need to be removed to the side of the curb. Please be advised that DPW cannot dispose of branches greater than 6 inches in diameter. He noted that an additional chipper has been rented to deal with the volume of branches. Campbell thanked DPW and the Public Safety Department for all of their hard work during the storms.

Traffic Signal at Beverly and Southfield Road - Like many traffic signals throughout the Metro Detroit Region, the light at Beverly and Southfield Road was out from Wednesday night to late Sunday night/early Monday morning due to the ice storm. Based on the speeds at the intersection, the amount of traffic and the fact that this is a school crossing for many elementary school children, the Administration will, in conjunction with the Road Commission and Public Safety, be developing a plan to ensure that the intersection remains as safe as possible during power outages, especially during peak traffic times.

Village Hall Generator - The Village Hall generator was installed in January of 2023. Last month, tests were conducted with the contractor and DTE to ensure that the generator is working properly. The generator is fully functional and is tested on a weekly basis. This generator will help ensure that we can assist residents of the Village more consistently during inclement weather or infrastructure issues. He noted that Administration is working on getting an app set up for the generator.

Greening Scholarship - Forms are now available for the 2023 Donald and Patricia Greening Community Service Scholarship. Completed applications must be delivered to the Village office by 4:00 pm on Friday, March 24, 2023. Additional information about the application and scholarship can be found by contacting Jay Blenkhorn at the Village offices or via email at jblenkhorn@villagebeverlyhills.com.

Marguerite and Hummel ARPA Funded Project – The line replacement on Marguerite and Hummel is scheduled to begin on March 13, 2023.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

White said there has been great work by Village staff over the last few weeks in response to the storms. He commented on the recent power outages. He said that wires to the homes are the homeowner's responsibility if they wish to bury the lines, but noted that it is an expensive project.

Keckskemeti commented on the power outages. She said it is not feasible to bury all of the lines in the village since it is an old community with old trees. She reminded residents to trim their trees and said that DTE needs to do better. She thanked DPW, Public Safety, and Administration for their work during the storms. She thanked Johnston for his work getting the Village up to speed regarding the catch basin cleaning. She congratulated the Groves choir on their recent concert.

Aboud reported that the MML Bridge Builder grant applications are available and local groups can receive up to \$1,000 for community projects. He said there would be discussion about TAP grants at the next SEMCOG regional meeting. He reminded everyone that the State of the County address would take place next week. A Short-Term Rental subcommittee meeting will be held soon. He thanked Administration for their work during the storm.

Mooney said he does not think that anything nefarious is going on with the Wendbrook project. He thinks it is a difference of opinions. He does not think White and George are acting in bad faith, as has been implied. He commented on transparency and said that there has been a loss of coverage by local newspapers over the years. He said the Village should be operating above the “open meetings” standard. He said things happen in the Village that Council is not aware of and he is a little disturbed by that. He stated that he would like to see the things that were discussed in the annual strategy session come to fruition, such as sidewalk maintenance and right of way tree inspections. He suggested going door-to-door to get better participation in the water service line verification project. He said the weekly email blast is a good tool for getting information out. He said the power outage problem is a three-legged stool consisting of DTE, the Village, and the homeowner.

Hrydziuszko said there is a Parks & Recreation Board meeting on March 16th. The Board is looking for volunteers to help with the Memorial Day Parade & Carnival. She gave a huge shout out to the Departments of Public Works and Public Safety for all of their work during and after the storms. She applauded residents for being connected, sharing information, and helping one another during the storms.

George said there are a lot of silver maples throughout the village that are at the edge of their lifespan. He commented on implementing a tree replacement program. He said that burying power lines is an option, but it comes with challenges. He said that he thinks people overestimate Council’s leverage over DTE and suggested directing comments to the state representatives who oversee the contract with DTE. He commented on Riverside Park and Beverly Green concept designs that have been created and suggested applying for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund development grants for both parks this cycle.

It was the sense of Council to direct Administration to submit MNRTF Development Grants in this cycle for Beverly Green and Riverside Park.

George said that a resolution of support would also need to be included with the grant applications and that should be on the next meeting agenda. He said there are a lot of unknowns regarding the Wendbrook property and that a complete plan has not yet been developed. He said there is a lot of work to do and we are still waiting to hear back about next steps. He said that a lack of news coverage is not a new issue for local governments. He stated communication has been a challenge across time. He said O’Gorman’s suggested public forum regarding Wendbrook is a good idea. He

thanked DPW, Public Safety, and Administration for their work during the recent storms. He asked everyone for their patience as crews go around the entire village collecting and chipping branches.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk